(b) whether Government is itself carrying on any research in the field of cold fusion or encouraging other national or university laboratories to conduct research in the said field; and

(c) if so, how much amount has been earmarked by Government for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) In a few countries like USA and Japan, work related to this area is being pursued more as a curiosity driven science research programme.

(b) No Sir. Several research groups in Department of Atomic Energy and other university laboratories' pursued research in this area in 1990s. They could not obtain reproducible results to establish the phenomenon of 'Cold Fusion'. Currently very few groups are working in this area.

(c) Not applicable.

Employment for disabled persons

*413. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries under the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) during the Eleventh Plan period;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether the NCPEDP has achieved its goal; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) to (d) As National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People is not a government organization and is not receiving any financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment the information is not available with the Ministry.

Housing for rising population

*414. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI N K SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of growing need of housing for the rising population, there is a need to develop more townships to accommodate them;

(b) if so, whether the experts have sought the intervention of Government to help develop the micro-financing sector and make land available to private developers; and

(c) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to build low cost housing sectors in cities?